

LAMSON & SESSIONS

January 26, 2004

Federal Communications Commission

Subject: WC Docket No. 03-259
Comp. Pol. File No. 667

Gentlemen:

I am the manager of Technology Management for Lamson & Sessions Company located at 25701 Science Park Drive, Beachwood, OH 44122. I am responsible for managing Lamson's centralized data center in Beachwood and assuring that it is available to all of our sites on a 24x7 basis.

Touch America DIP's intention to discontinue Frame Relay service on January 31, 2004 will seriously impair our Clinton, IA manufacturing plant. Since we are a centralized center, none of our core systems (such as SAP, email, payroll, etc.) would be available to Clinton if this outage occurs.

The impact is very serious: the Clinton plant can operate for two days without being in contact with the Beachwood data center. After that, we would have to lay off approximately 120 associates and essentially, close the plant until communications are restored. Furthermore, since the Clinton plant is operating three full shifts to fill order demand from our customers, its closure – even temporarily – will have an extremely adverse affect on Lamson's bottom line and its customer relationships.

When we were notified of Touch America DIP's application, we ordered a new local loop to connect directly to Qwest Communication's point of presence. However I feel there is not enough time for the line to be installed before the deadline.

I strongly urge you to delay Touch America's discontinuation of service until February 28, 2004.

Sincerely,

Jerome R. Theus
Manager, Technology Management